Former America First Leader Now Cold War Promoter With Big Business, Military

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by SAM KUSHNER

CHICAGO — "In the crucial hour, they demand risk doing and sheer will from leadership, when lesser mento crowed by the odds whave lost their nerve."

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In a three-day meeting cosponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry and varied branches of the armed forces, the first Military Industry conference was born.

It has now become an annual event, sponsored and organized my the Institute For American Strategy.

But the timing of the birth of the Institute, the personnel of the board and the identity of supporters have more than passing interest. The IAS now seeks to pass itself off as a patriotic organization, and is not too anxious to have some of its more sordid connections brought to light.

The Military-Industrial conferences and the American Security Council, reputed to be the nation's biggest anti-labor placklist agency, were born within months of each other.

The top executive bodies of both organizations read like an interlocking directorate. Among the top officers of the blacklist agency who are on the board of the cold war Institute for American Strategy are:

Frank R. Barnett of the Richardson Foundation.

Harry A. Bullis, formerly of General Mills, Inc.

John M. Fisher, Chief Secur-

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ity officer of Sears Roebuch and Chairman, of the Board of the American Security Council.

Daniel A. Sullivan of Armour Research Foundation.

General Robert E. Wood, retired chairman of the Board of Sears Roebuck.

GEN. WOOD'S ROLE

Mainspring for the formation, of both organizations was Gen. Wood, who in his earlier years was the head of the isolationist America First Committee, which, had the avowed support of antisemites, Nazi Bundists and selfproclaimed American Fascists.

After the America First flasco, during which time Wood, a former army quartermaster, became head of the Sears, Roel buck chain, little was heard from him for about a decade.

But he did not rest on his reactionary laurels.

personally Wood solicited! membership to the fledgling American Security Council. To run the affairs of this organiza-; tion he recruited much of Sears. Roebuck's personnel. His chief, of security, former FBI agent John Fisher, became the boss of the outfit. This has been documented in past articles in The Worker.

NEW BUDDIES

Simultaneously the Institute for American Strategy was born. But this time Wood would not make the same mistake he made in the 1940s with the American First Committee, it seemed. Instead of support from Gerald L. K. Smith, Father Coughlin; and others of this ilk, he sought a new set of associates.

Military leaders, business tycoons and government officials were his new buddles. Greetings were sent to the conferences by President Eisenhower. Generals such as Maxwell Taylor hed to speak there. Foreign guests addressed the gatherings.